

CLASSIFICATION SECRET 25X1
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	East Germany	DATE DISTR.	28 April 1953
SUBJECT	VP Units and Construction Projects	NO. OF PAGES	6
PLACE ACQUIRED	25X1	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF INFO.	25X1	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTION 793 OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED, IT IS UNLAWFUL TO REVEAL OR DISCLOSE ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON. IT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

25X1 1. Between 12 December 1952 and 10 January 1953, [] the headquarters of the Armeegruppe Nordost commanded by Major General Hermann Rentsch was located in the former Nachrichten Kaserne in Pasewalk. []

25X1 [] the last name, rank and assignment of some officers assigned to this headquarters, including: Lieutenant Colonel Riedel, chief of staff, confirmed in this position until August 1952; Major Wronsky, engineer commander, a former German officer; Lieutenant Colonel Hasse, supply officer, (not seen after August 1952); Captain Just, assistant supply officer, (not seen after August 1952); Major Daemel, political officer; Captain Pohlmann, chief of the recently established Quartiernutzungsaamt (Billeting Office), who was born in 1913, served as a master sergeant in an artillery unit in World War II and was promoted, in December 1952, to the rank of captain; and Captain Grund, chief of the newly established Bauverwaltung (Construction Administration), previously construction supervisor of Project III Prora on Ruegen Island.¹

25X1

25X1 2. According to available information, elements of the Armeegruppe Nordost included: a mechanized division in Eggesin, [] a division located in Prenzlau [] in Prora on Ruegen Island; and [] [] in Rostock, which will allegedly move, during the summer of 1953, to the Eggesin area, presumably to Karpin. The Armeegruppe Nord is said to be under activation in the Rostock-Priemer Wald (Priem forest) area. []

25X1

25X1 3. [] [] The Eggesin Mecz Div was commanded by Colonel Weiss, whose predecessor, Colonel Ernst, went to the U.S.S.R. in September 1952. It was previously commanded by Goepfert and Kunath. Officers attached to the division headquarters included: Lieutenant Colonel Tappert, chief of staff, allegedly a former German officer; Major Heak, assistant chief of staff, allegedly a former German senior lieutenant; Lieutenant Colonel Burkhardt, deputy and political officer; Major Hitzinger, deputy supply officer; Major Reichert, chief signal officer; Senior Lieutenant Schneider, allegedly the commanding officer of the signal battalion; Captain Wolf, chief of the motor transport

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

STATE	NAVY	X NSRB						
ARMY	F	X AIR	X FBI					

25X1

25X1

SECRET

2

25X1

school; Captain Foenitsch, chief of the motor transport service and the motor vehicle repair shop in the former Altwarp shipyard; Major Packhaus, assigned to the operations section; Major Pohl, security service officer; Senior Lieutenant Wiegner, finance officer who had come from Quedlinburg; Senior Lieutenant Schuldt, chief of the clothing and equipment section; Senior Lieutenant Stoetzel, mess officer; Major (Engineer) Jaedicke, who worked in July 1952 on the setting up of tent camps but was not seen after that date; and Major Jahn, who went to the U.S.S.R. in September 1952. From 80 to 100 Soviet officers were attached as military advisers to the division. In August 1952, the Soviet detachment was headed by Colonel Malikhin who seems to have gone to Pasewalk. The Soviet officers allegedly were to be given German citizenship, so they might stay in Germany in the event the occupation forces should leave. About early January 1953, a Soviet major general, Colonel Weiss's adviser moved from Ueckermuende to Eggesin. The general, who wore yellow-bordered black patches on the lapels of his overcoat, previously resided at 3 Ernst Thaelmann Strass in Ueckermuende. After the completion of the settlement in the fork formed by the Eggesin-Ahlbeck and Eggesin-Foersterei Karpin roads he will move there. Two colonels arrived from Ueckermuende in the company of the general. One of them will act as an adviser to the chief political officer, the other will assist the supply officer. Soviet advisers will allegedly be assigned to the commanders of all companies. The section of the German State Security Service at the division is to move to the Soviet officers' billets.³

4. The Eggesin Division includes a headquarters company, commanded by Captain Reileya (fnu); a signal battalion of two telephone communications and two radio companies commanded by Senior Lieutenant Schneider (fnu); a reconnaissance battalion, which included a motorcycle unit and is to move to Project VIII at Karpin during the summer of 1953; a major artillery unit, allegedly an AT unit; an infantry regiment, which was quartered, after its activation in July and August 1952, in a tent camp near Karpin, but moved, in late October 1952, to Schwerin from where it will, allegedly, come back in the spring of 1953; a motor transport company commanded by Senior Lieutenant Ballstedt (fnu); a motor transport school of three companies commanded by Captain Wolf (fnu), whose deputy was Senior Lieutenant Schroeter (fnu); and a bakery company which seems to occupy temporary quarters in Eggesin, but will allegedly move into permanent buildings on the railroad line between Spechtberg and Gummritz upon their completion. The company could bake 15,000 3-lb. loaves per day.⁴
5. An undetermined unit, which according to account slips belonged to the Eggesin Div and was located in Thuringia or Saxony, will allegedly move to Karpin at a later date. Administrative officer Salchow (fnu) was assigned to this unit.⁵
6. Units located in Project IX Spechtberg included: Tank Regt Hoeft and Tank Regt Schmidt, which allegedly also belong to the Eggesin Div. The former regiment had 10 companies, the latter, allegedly a heavy tank unit, 8 companies. Schmidt's predecessor was a VP officer, whose name was Heinrich Brandes. An officer named Herzer (fnu) was the technical supply officer of this regiment. A tank school of six companies, commanded by Captain Klenner (fnu), was located on the southern edge

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

3

25X1

of Project IX. The school was presumably equipped with six T 34/85 tanks which are parked directly beside the billets of the school. The tank units in Spechtberg were equipped with about 50 T-34 tanks and an unidentified number of turretlss armored vehicles which were parked under canvas about 200 meters southeast of the Neumuehl estate, and about 100 tanks of the same model which were also parked canvas-covered in the woods between the Sprengchemie and Neumuehl, about 150 meters south of the Neumuehl-Spechtberg road. All tanks were parked on planks.⁶

7. Ordnance observed about mid-December 1952 in the Eggesin billeting area included 20 SP guns on T-34 chassis including one command tank, 3 T 34/85 tanks, 10 model BA-64 armored scout cars and numerous guns of various models and sizes including field howitzers, field guns, AT guns, AA guns and mortars. The observed motor vehicles were mainly Ifa trucks and some ZIS trucks including seven radio trucks of the same model which belonged to the signal battalion. The radio equipment of the trucks were supplied about early December 1952. On 9 or 10 January 1953, a shipment of 24 or 25 German-made command cars [redacted] arrived. These vehicles had all-wheel drive and were somewhat larger than the known jeeps.

25X1

8. By 10 January 1953, a list of all supply installations needed by the division except for the armory and workshops was to be forwarded to Marshal Chukov by one of the Soviet chief advisers attached to the Eggesin Div, presumably the chief political officer. The list contained the following data on the individual installations required: stationary bakery, about 650 sq. meters; ration supply depot, about 1,000 sq.meters with cooling rooms in basements; clothing depot, about 1,000 sq.meters; laundry, about 1,600 sq.meters; this installation is the existing laundry that previously did the washing for about 1,500 men of the Eggesin VPD, was brought in the summer of 1952 to about 150 percent of its former capacity, and is believed to be now eight times as large as it had been at that time; fuel depot with 1,000 x 200-liter barrels containing various engine fuels and lubricants adequate for moving the division 100 km; and ordnance park, about 1,000 sq. meters, to store equipment of every type including engineer equipment. The Pasewalk Quartiernutzungamt which was headed by Captain Pohlmann, was looking for depots with railroad connections suitable for the housing of supply installations.⁷ In connection with the intended construction of supply installations, the authorized strength of the division was given at 11,000 men. The division will be quartered in billets equipped with 128 beds per company, while the strength of tank companies appears to be 10 percent less. During the reported period, the Eggesin Div had an average company strength of 60 men.⁸

9. Between 8 and 10 a.m. on 7 January 1953, a supply-service map exercise was held in the office of the supply officer of the Eggesin Div, Major Hitzinger. The preparations for this exercise indicated that it was to deal with supplies to be made from the area north of the Moshringen (about 7 km west of Stettin) - Viereck (about 7 km northeast of Pasewalk) line in a southwestern direction. The town of Templin played a major part. The exercise was based on the availability of 397 motor vehicles including trucks, sedans and motorcycles. This number was transmitted by phone by the director of the motor transport service, Captain Poenitsch (fmu), to Junior Lieutenant Schuerer (fmu), in charge of supply organization and planning.

25X1

TOPCRG

25X1

SECRET

4

25X1

25X1 10. At the time of information, the Prenzlau Div was commanded by Colonel Riedel (fmu). Its area included Construction Projects IV Droegeheide and V Pinnow. A unit [redacted] was located in Pinnow. [redacted]

25X1

11. According to information of mid-December 1952, Colonel Horst Praessler was ordered by the Ministry of the Interior to carry out the construction projects in the northeastern area of East Germany. He was assisted by a Soviet adviser, Lieutenant Colonel Teshenko (fmu). At first, Colonel Praessler himself headed an Oberbaustab (higher construction headquarters) established in Eggesin, which was in charge of the planning and execution of construction work. Later, Colonel Praessler was succeeded, in this capacity, by Lieutenant Colonel Johannes Rochlitzer, who was recently replaced by Captain Grund. Captain Grund was to direct the Oberbaustab up to its dissolution which was scheduled to take place on 31 December 1952. Captain Drost (fmu), was the chief of the planning section of the Oberbaustab. The headquarters was scheduled to be dissolved allegedly in view of the setting up of post administration offices (billetting offices) and army construction offices. Lieutenant Colonel Rochlitzer was mentioned as the chief of the Berlin Quartiernutzungamt, and Captain Pohlmann as the chief of the Pasewalk Quartiernutzungamt. Colonel Praessler was identified as the chief of the Bauverwaltung (construction administration) in the Ministry of the Interior, and Captain Grund as the director of the Pasewalk Heeresbauamt. Allegedly, the billeting offices are charged with the administration and maintenance of premises while the construction of new buildings is the responsibility of the Heeresbauamt (army construction offices). The Bauunion Nordost was established by the Prenzlau Kreistuhof (district construction authority) and charged with all VF construction work in this area. It was headed by one Macour (fmu), whose predecessors were one Fuerger (fmu) and one Willer (fmu). The SED Central Committee constantly controlled all construction workers and employees, and the construction work proper. ¹⁰

25X1 12. [redacted] following data on the individual construction projects:

Project I: Pasewalk. The project included the construction of a new three-story building designated U-10 (90.24 x 16.26 meters) and the reconditioning of the old buildings. Also, 30 to 50 apartments and three low wooden administrative buildings were under construction on Prenzlauer Chaussee.

Project II: Stallberg. The project was located about 2 km north of Viereck, on the Viereck-Jaegerbrueck dam, and included barracks buildings under construction for about 16 companies.

Project III: Prora on Ruegen Island. No details were available.

Projects IV and V: Prenzlau and Pinnow. No details were determined.

Project VI: Droegeheide. The project was located about 2.5 km southeast of Torgelow, on the dam to Viereck and included billets under construction for at least 40 companies, allegedly infantry units.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

5

25X1

Project VII: Eggesin. The project included two two-story U-10 buildings to quarter a total of about eight companies, one three-story headquarters building (61.77 x 13.38 meters) to quarter the division headquarters, and one low classroom building (60.0 x 10.5 meters), which was being used as workers' billets.

Project VIII: Karpin. The project included billets under construction for at least 40 companies. The installation was already occupied by infantry units.

Project IX: Spechtberg. The project was located about 1.5 km south of Neumuehl, in the area of the former Sprengchenrie, and included billets under construction for about 24 companies, allegedly tank units.

Project X: About 2 km west of Altwarz. The project included billets under construction for 8 to 16 companies.

Projects I, II, VI, VIII, IX and X also included apartments under construction for officers' dependents, and Projects VI, VIII, IX and X kitchen-and-mess buildings, headquarters buildings and temporary buildings with classrooms under construction. The latter group of projects also included garages whose construction was started recently. Prior to 31 October 1952, tent camps were located adjacent to Projects II, VI, VIII, IX and X which were situated in woods. The tent camps will allegedly be set up again in the summer of 1953 since a large number of permanent billets were not yet stuccoed although they already quartered soldiers. The lighting installations and water facilities of the tent camps were not dismantled. After mid-October 1952, electric wires and pressure pipes for water conduits were the only materials in short supply.¹¹

25X1 [] Comment. A previous report [] mentioned Grund as 25X1
25X1 the director of the Oberbaustab in Eggesin. []

25X1 [] Comment. []
25X1 [] the headquarters of the Armeegruppe Nord and not of the Armeegruppe Nordost is located in Pasewalk. The information on the activation of an alleged Armeegruppe Nord in the Rostock-Priemerwald area is believed to be without foundation. KVPD 1411, a mechanized regiment, and not 4035 is located in Rostock. [] it will move, in the spring of 1953, to Karpin as the 3d Mecz Regt of the Eggesin Div.

25X1 []
25X1 []

25X1 [] Comment. These statements generally agree with available information. The number of 80 to 100 Soviet instructors is too low. It is believed that the Eggesin Div includes not less than 200 Soviet officers who are attached to all headquarters and units down to, and including, company level.

25X1 [] Comment. The information on the OB of the Eggesin Div is incomplete. []

25X1 [] Comment. An artillery regiment activated in Leipzig and commanded by Major Philip Duerrweiler, and a mortar regiment activated in Franken-berg and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Guenter Waterstradt, belong to the Eggesin Div. In the spring of 1953, the two regiments will allegedly move to the Eggesin area. No previous reports mentioned an officer named Salchow with either of the two regiments.

SECRET

25X1